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BRIEFING



NGTON - BLOOMINGTON - BLOOM

BLOOMINGTON YESTERDAY

BASEBALL AND BAR-B-Q

RESTAURANTEUR HELPED BRING MET STADIUM TO BLOOMINGTON

HEN NOT RUNNING one of his two Bar-B-Q restaurants, Aleck "Smokey" Ellis kept busy by helping the community he loved. Ellis served on the boards of a variety of Bloomington organizations, including the Bloomington Community Bank.



Photo courtesy of the Minnesota Vikings.

"My father was always very civic-minded," daughter Pat Lambros said. "He knew everyone in the community and was so involved he'd even hold meetings at the restaurant."

Ellis, who immigrated to Minnesota from Greece in 1915, opened his second Smokey Point restaurant near what is now I-494. Yet his biggest claim to fame is most certainly the role he played in bringing Metropolitan Stadium to Bloomington.

"In 1953 he went to Milwaukee with a lawyer and group of bankers to

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This weekend

Special feature

root vegetab

entertainme



Photo courtesy of Pat Lambros.

study plans for the stadium," Lambros said. "It was his idea to put it across the street from the restaurant."

Lambros said having the stadium right across the street from the Smokey Point made it easy for Ellis to enjoy his box seats.

In 1962, a year before his death, Ellis sold his property to the Decathlon Hotel and Athletic Club. The Radisson Hotel and Water Park occupies the site today.

This month.

Closure at West Bus

improvements are

sanitary sewer inst

Three residentia

for sale for the

Single-Family P

acquired volunt

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RAIN GARDEN WORKSHOPS

LEARN ECO-FRIENDLY TIPS



Lower Minnesota River Watershed
District are hosting two rain garden
workshops for residents, Thursdays,
May 7 and May 21, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Facilitated by nonprofit gardening
organization Metro Blooms and local
landscape ecologist Rusty Schmidt, the
workshops will take place in the
Bloomington Public Works building,
1700 West 98th Street. Master
Gardeners will also be on hand to
answer all your gardening questions.

To register, visit www.metroblooms.org or call 651-699-2426.

SHARING THE RIDE CITY COMMUTERS USE ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION



RECENT SURVEY FOUND that ABloomington is among the seven west metro communities with the highest share of commuters using alternative means of transportation for their work trip. In Bloomington, one in five commuters uses a means of transportation such as transit, carpooling, bicycling or walking. The data, collected through a 2007 U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey, covers 41 cities in the Twin Cities region with populations of 20,000 or higher. These communities represent 78 percent of the region's total population.

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Pavement Management Program

Traffic Management projects T

for ways to communicate with residents using the latest technological tools available. These tools are more than just an information exchange, but are moving the City toward its goal to become more sustainable. Always on the cutting edge, in 1996, Bloomington was one of the first governments in the nation to introduce a website. As technology evolved, so did the City's website, affording residents more ways to stay informed.

It was this time last year that the City of Bloomington launched Ask the City, an online customer service system that provides residents an easier way to ask a question, report a complaint and get a resolution quickly. Ask the City has answered nearly 3,000 questions and service requests since its inception and today boasts 2,700 registered users. In addition, more than 100 visitors browse its pages daily.

The face of communications keeps changing. The City is keeping pace with

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technology by unveiling a new communications tool to make staying in touch with your community faster and easier than ever. Important City news and happenings are now available through a free electronic subscription service called E-Subscribe. Residents can sign up to receive e-mail information and wireless alerts on an expanding list of subjects, including City news, police alerts, health news, facility closures, development and transportation updates, seasonal and full-time job opportunities, and more. For example, want to find out if a snow emergency has been declared in the city? Simply sign up for snow emergency alerts. Would you like to know when a construction project is scheduled for

completion? Sign up for changes to the

development directory. Every visitor will have the ability to build a "My Bloomington" profile of specific information they wish to receive by e-mail.

To subscribe to this service, you will need an e-mail address. Your address will only be used to provide you with the content you have requested or to give you access to your own profile of subscriptions, which can be password protected.

To register for e-mail alerts, visit E-Subscribe, accessible from the homepage of the City's website at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us. For more information, call Communications Administrator Janine Hill at 952-563-8819 or e-mail jhill@ci.bloomington.mn.us.